

**Gulf Regional Sediment Management Master Plan Conference Call
October 13, 2006
Meeting Minutes**

1. A conference call was conducted on Friday, October 13, 2006 regarding the Gulf Regional Sediment Management Master Plan (GRSMMP). The meeting agenda is included below.
2. After introductions, Jeff Williams (USGS) presented a summary of programs conducted by the Service related to RSM activities in the Gulf of Mexico. The information from such programs will be valuable sources in the formulation of the master plan. USGS is currently conducting investigations looking at coastal vulnerabilities and assessment of offshore sediment sources. Sand and gravel assessments are already being conducted off the coast of Louisiana and in support of the Gulf Alliance, assessments will be carried out off MS, AL, the FL panhandle and eventually TX. Information from these investigations will be entered into the usSEABED (Data series 146), a collection of linked data sets in which sea-floor-sediment data from the USGS and other research groups are collated, processed, and extended to maximize their usability for mapping and analysis. Jeff supplied some additional material on this that was later forwarded to the GRSMMP team.
3. Next on the agenda was a discussion concerning a science assessment workshop in support of GRSMMP. The purpose of the workshop is to identify the scientific and technical information that is currently available to support the GRSMMP and to characterize the state of knowledge relative to sediment in the Gulf region. The workshop is scheduled to be held in St. Petersburg, Florida at the USGS facility, December 5-6 of this year. The workshop will identify availability of calibrated sediment budgets, coastal transport process models, regional scale databases/maps of sand and sediment resources, erosion rates, and coastal vulnerabilities. This information will be useful in matching sediment needs with sources, as well as provide sediment/coastal process information that can inform options for sediment resource uses identified in the GRSMMP. State and TNC participants on the call provided recommendations for workshop participants to represent their respective states that are aware and involved in related sediment issues. These representatives will be invited to participate.
4. The state representatives suggested that the GRSMMP also address environmental impacts from storms, as well as environmental and hydrodynamic implications of using certain sediment sources.
5. Next, the meeting discussion was directed towards the draft objectives/purpose statement and master plan outline. Comments were made that the master plan should include a process to identify impediments and a proactive process towards solving issues and challenges involved in regional sediment management. Although the plan should be based on sound engineering and scientific information, it must also provide a blueprint to solve political hurdles. The state representatives will conduct further reviews of the draft documents and provide comments via email or during the next meeting.

6. The conference call moved forward with discussions on planning the workshop proposed for the January/February timeframe of 2007. This workshop, is intended to scope out the GRSMMP and how it will be developed, in response to the Governors' Action Plan. State participation in conference calls up until the workshop, and at the workshop, will shape the purposes and content of the GRSMMP. Federal agencies will help assist with this and information from the Science Assessment workshop will be used to help inform discussions at this workshop. Additional participants will be identified during the upcoming conference calls, and e-mail exchanges. It was agreed that with all of the other Restoration group workshop activities, that it would be desirable to piggy-back the workshop with some other meeting already in the works that most of the participants would be attending. Two possibilities were identified: 1) The MMS Information Transfer workshop scheduled for January 9,10, & 11 in Kenner, Louisiana, or 2) the beneficial use of dredged spoil workshop being planned by the Coastal Restoration and Enhancement through Science and Technology (CREST) program sometime in February. The Corps was tasked with making contact to assess whether one of these events could accommodate the GRSMMP workshop. This information will be coordinated with the group via email.

7. Lastly, the group talked about the next GRSSMP meeting. It was agreed that the upcoming Gulf of Mexico Alliance Regional Restoration Coordination Team Workshop scheduled for November 2-3 in New Orleans would provide a good opportunity to assemble a quick meeting. The likely possibility is to meet right after the workshop adjourns at noon on the 3rd. More information pertaining to the meeting will be distributed as it is further coordinated.

**Gulf of Mexico Regional Sediment Management Master Plan Conference Call
(10/13/06)**

AGENDA

Introductions

USGS - Summary of work related to RSM

Science Assessment Workshop in Support of GRSMMP

Discussion - Objectives/Purpose Statement

Discussion - Master Plan Outline

State/Stakeholder Workshop (where, when, who, what)

Next conference call